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Security Council

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Letter dated 19 July 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of July, I have the pleasure to write to you in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of July, in connection with the open debate of the Security Council entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security: the impact of climate change", to be held on Wednesday, 20 July 2011.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated, on behalf of the Arab Group, as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mansour **Alotaibi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

On behalf of the Group of Arab States, I have the honour to write to you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council, regarding the open debate that the Security Council will hold on Wednesday, 20 July 2011, under the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security: impact of climate change".

In that connection, I should like to affirm that the Group of Arab States is of the view that developing States, in particular least developed countries, the African countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries, are the ones most harmed by the negative effects of climate change. We further affirm that the potential impact of climate change will have an adverse effect on the Arab region, which is considered to be an arid and semi-arid area.

The Group of Arab States believes that, in accordance with its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council bears primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, while taking into account the role of the General Assembly in that regard, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 377 (V), adopted on 3 November 1950. The overlap of the Security Council's role with the roles and responsibilities of the other principal organs of the United Nations is not in keeping with purposes and principles of the Charter, and has the potential to undermine the powers of those organs and the rights of the Organization's general membership.

The Group affirms that the issue of climate change is of vital importance to sustainable development, and that responsibility for sustainable development lies with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their relevant subsidiary organs, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Programme. In that connection, we would like to recall that no role is set out for the Security Council in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which is the binding multilateral agreement on climate change, and the Kyoto Protocol.

We believe it is vital that all Member States should foster sustainable development by adhering to the Rio Principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. They should also fully implement Agenda 21: Programme of Action for Sustainable Development and fulfil other commitments, including those related to the provision of financial resources, the transfer of technology and building the capacities of developing countries, made at Rio, Johannesburg and other relevant United Nations conferences on economic and social issues.

The Group of Arab States affirms that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary forum for addressing climate change risks and considering the measures that must be taken to confront climate change, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Convention. Developed countries must act urgently to fulfil their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol, and those developed countries that have not yet acceded to that Protocol are urged to do so. The Group further affirms that it is vital

to agree on a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, in order to ensure that there is no gap between the first and second periods.

In that connection, the Group would like to express its support for the letters from the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning the open debate on the relationship between energy, security and climate, which was held on 17 April 2007. It would also like to express its support for the letter dated 14 July 2011 from the Non-Aligned Movement addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/427) concerning the open debate entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security: impact of climate change", which has been scheduled for 20 July 2011.

The Group of Arab States emphasizes that no Security Council presidential statement or press statement should be issued, nor any action taken, after the forthcoming open debate, in particular any statement or action that might undermine the authority or mandate of the relevant organs, processes and instruments, or that might affect in any way the course of climate change negotiations, including the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, scheduled to be held in South Africa at the end of 2011.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter issued as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mansour Ayyad SH A **Alotaibi**
Permanent Representative